

LOUISIANA
Conservationist

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2003 Calendar

The 2003 Louisiana Conservationist Calendar is a special issue this year because it marks two milestones in its history. The first milestone will be a surprise to all our readers because it is the first time the calendar has been published as a separate issue. In past years the calendar served as the January/February issue, but in 2003 our readers will get their calendar as usual, *plus* the regular six issues that follow throughout the year.

The second important change in the calendar is that it features the photography skills of LDWF's own employees. From monitoring marine life in the Gulf of Mexico, to ensuring healthy forest growth and wildlife through prescribed burnings, the Department conducts a multitude of activities dedicated to the protection and conservation of Louisiana's natural resources. These photographs were taken through the eyes of our employees as they see our wildlife, fisheries and natural habitats.

We hope you enjoy getting the calendar early this year. It makes a great Christmas gift for anyone's shopping list.

Louisiana Conservationist Magazine staff

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Louisiana Conservationist
No. 54 Vol. 7
ISSN 0024-6778
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

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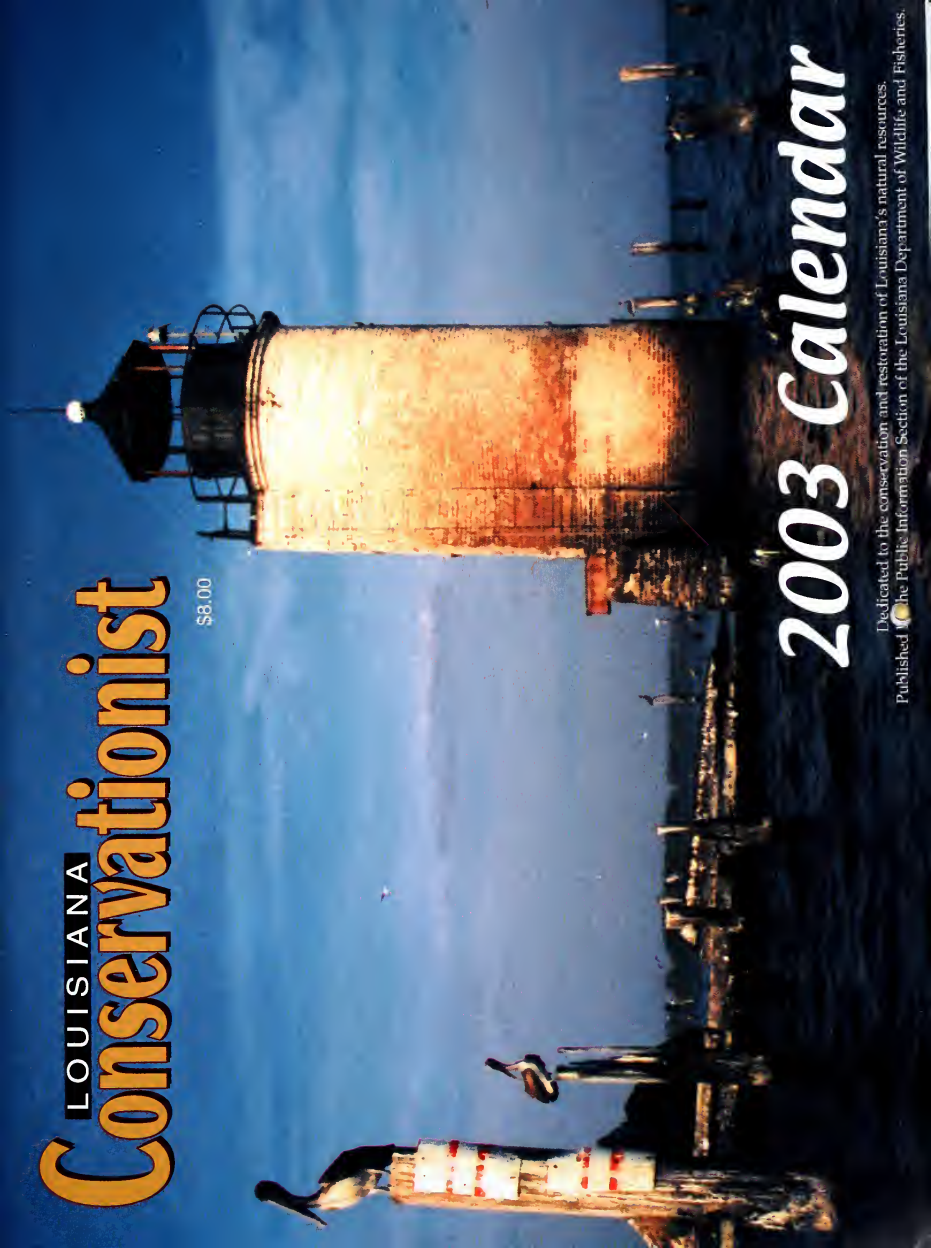
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The Louisiana Conservationist is published bimonthly except January/February by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, 225/765-2918. Periodical postage paid at Baton Rouge, LA and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Louisiana Conservationist, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898.

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This public document was published at an average cost of \$30,750. Approximately 29,000 copies of this document were published at an average printing cost of \$25,000. The total cost of all printings of this document averages \$25,000. This document was published for Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70808, by LSU Graphics Services to provide information on outdoor opportunities in Louisiana. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

Cow 1.7:

The background of the cover is a photograph of a lighthouse on a rocky island. The lighthouse is a tall, cylindrical structure with a weathered, light-colored exterior and a dark, conical roof. It is illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. In the foreground, there are several birdhouses or nesting boxes, some with red and white stripes. Two birds are perched on one of these structures. The sky is a deep blue with some wispy clouds. The overall scene is serene and coastal.

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2003 Calendar

Dedicated to the conservation and restoration of Louisiana's natural resources.
Published by the Public Information Section of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

DECEMBER S M T W T F S	FEBRUARY S M T W T F S	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	Resident Great Horned owls nesting.	New Year's Day Diver rat underways in Miss. Delta (Area 1) and Atchafalaya Basin (Area 6). Diver gull seasons end Areas 7 and 8.	New Moon Squirrel breeding underways.	2 Diver gull season ends Areas 2 and 4.	4 Mourning dove season opens Areas 2, 4 and 5.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Gift subscriptions to Louisiana Conservationist are very affordable.	Large schools of striped crayfish in deep water.	Resident Great Horned owls nesting.	Peak waterfowl numbers in coastal Louisiana. Rail and gallinule seasons end.	New Moon Squirrel breeding underways.	First Quarter Diver gull season ends Areas 2 and 4.	Canada goose season opens. Clean and repair Purple Martin nest boxes.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
West zone duck season ends. Area 6 deer gull season ends.	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (observed) Mourning dove season opens Areas 1 and 6.	Early nesting Wood Ducks search for free canities.	Diver anchovy season ends Areas 3 and 8. Striped bass migrate up the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers.	Full Moon Squirrel breeding for spring nesting largely over.	First Quarter Diver gull season ends Areas 2 and 4.	Canada goose season opens. Clean and repair Purple Martin nest boxes.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
East zone of duck season ends. Canada goose season ends. Mourning dove season closes Areas 1 and 6.	Mourning dove season opens Areas 1 and 6.	Early nesting Wood Ducks search for free canities.	Peak number of Canada geese in southwest rice fields.	New Moon Squirrel breeding underways.	First Quarter Diver gull season ends Areas 2 and 4.	Canada goose season opens. Clean and repair Purple Martin nest boxes.
26	27	28	29	30	31	25
East zone of duck season ends. Canada goose season ends. Mourning dove season closes Areas 1 and 6.	Mourning dove season opens Areas 1 and 6.	Early nesting Wood Ducks search for free canities.	Peak number of Canada geese in southwest rice fields.	New Moon Squirrel breeding underways.	First Quarter Diver gull season ends Areas 2 and 4.	Canada goose season opens. Clean and repair Purple Martin nest boxes.

Port Fourchon in
Lafourche Parish
accommodates
the offshore oil
industry.

commercial
fishing, seafood
shipping, tourism
and recreational
activities. Flocks
of pelicans,
herons and
egrets often
accompany
fishermen in
the grassy
marshland.

Located at the
mouth of Bayou
Lafourche, this
is the southern-
most port in
Louisiana.

Port Fourchon

Photo by
Janice Collins
Louisiana Conservationist
Public Information Section



JANUARY 2003

LOUISIANA Conservationist



JANUARY SMTWTFS 5678910111213141516171819202122232425262728293031	MARCH SMTWTFS 2345678910111213141516171819202122232425262728293031				Conservation order for light geese begins. New Moon 1	Wild turkeys (Meleagris gallopavo) once roamed Louisiana in large numbers across two-thirds of the state. At its peak in the early 1800's, the state's wild turkey population may have approached 1 million birds. However, by the turn of the 20th century, population numbers began to dwindle. By 1959, as a result of protection and maturing forest, wild turkey numbers began to rebound. Wild Turkeys Photo by Jeff DeGraff Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Public Information Section	
Groundhog Day 2			Opossums give birth this month. 5	Repair turtle traps. 6	7	Louisiana fishing record: Greg Wiggins 15.97-pound largemouth bass caught in February, 1994 ranks first in the freshwater species division. 8	Overwintering waterfowl begin migration northward.
Squirrel season ends. 9	Clean and repair Eastern Bluebird boxes. 10	White bass begin spawning. 11	Lincoln's Birthday 12	Edible wild greens can be gathered in fallow fields. 13	14	Washington's Birthday 15	
Sac-a-lait schools breaking up. 16	President's Day 17	Purple Martins appear. Trapping bass fishing on Louisiana lakes. 18	Louisiana fishing record: Randy L. Duhac's 413-pound white bass caught in February, 1986 ranks first in the freshwater species division. 19	Gulf sturgeon enter rivers to find suitable spawning habitat. 20	21	22	
Big largemouth bass biting on catfish at Toledo Bend. 23	Louisiana fishing record: Wm. D. Hungerford's 16.25-pound hybrid striped bass caught in February, 1986 ranks first in the freshwater species division. 24	25	26	27	28	Quail and rabbit seasons end.	

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SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

		April Fool's Day Recreational and commercial shuck harvest closed. New Moon	1	2	3	4	5
6	Daylight Savings time begins.	Start seed control in ponds.	Striped bass artificial fishing begins at Toledo Bend Hatchery.	Saddle-tail Kites return to Pearl River basin to nest.	Peak ingress of brown pelicans perches into Calcasieu Lake.		
7	Plan ahead for Mother's Day. Subscriptions to Conservationist made great gifts.	8	9	10	11	12	
13	Palm Sunday Wild Turkey season closes in Area B.	Quays begin nesting in south Louisiana.	15	16	17	18	19
20	Easter Sunday Wild Turkey season closes in Area A.	Some coveys of quail begin broodup. Commercial northern season opens.	22	23	24	25	26
27			29	30			

The red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*), also known as the "redfish," is one of the few saltwater species providing sport fishing for fall and winter fishermen in Louisiana. Big "bull" reds, like the one pictured here, prefer offshore or deeper waters of lower estuaries around island passes and channels.

Red Drum

Photo by
Richard Bejarano
Biologist II
Marine Fisheries Division



APRIL 2003

LOUISIANA Conservationist

MARCH							MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1							
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		25	26	27	28	29	30
30	31							25	26	27	28	29	30

Peak crappie spawn at Toledo Bend.

Male alligators bellow in the marshes.

Alligator snapping turtles begin laying eggs.

Most wild turkey hens are on the nest.



APRIL
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30

JUNE
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30

May Day
New Moon

Wild blueberries ripening
in piney woods.

Top Six Bass Tournament at
Tolado Bend.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Mother's Day
Plan ahead for Father's
Day. Subscriptions to
**Louisiana
Conservationist**
make great gifts.

Turkey hatch underway.

Common water snakes
become nocturnal for
summer months.

12

Duck breeding population
surgeons conducted this
month in northern U.S. and
Canada.

13

14

Wild turkey hatch underway.

Egg laying begins in Anas 2
and 3.

15

16

17

18

19

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

Plant homestead millet fields
for doves.

Memorial Day (observed)
Coastal Conservation
Association S.T.A.C.
tournament begins

Young Red-collared
Woodpeckers leave cavity
nests.

26

27

28

29

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

The Barred Owl
(*Strix varia*) is by
far the most
common member
of the owl family
found in
Louisiana. The
general color of
the species is
dark brown with
numerous bars
on the upper
breast and
vertical streaks on
the belly. It has
no ear tufts and
its eyes are so
dark they actually
appear to be
black. The
Barred Owl and
the Barn Owl are
the only large
owls in Louisiana
that do not have
yellow eyes.

Barred Owl

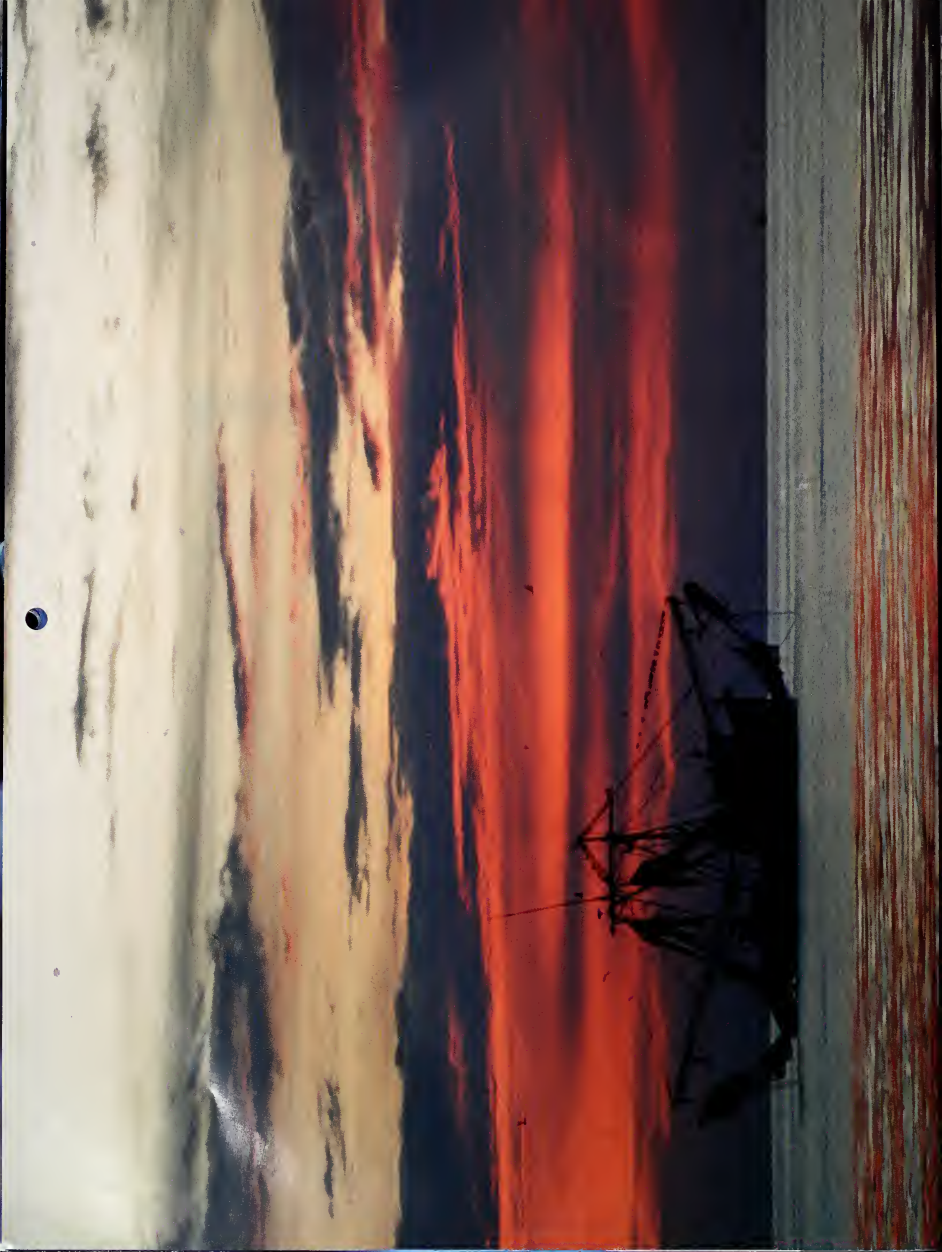
Photo by
David Moreland
State Deer Study Leader
Wildlife Division



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MAY 2003





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Recreational/commercial shark furthest roopens. Binding of resident Wood Ducks begins. Commercial king mackerel fishery roopens.	2	3 Young quail begin breeding.	Independence Day Citrushula Lake drumadum begins. Pre-season Wood Duck banding begins.	5
6 First Quarter	7	8 Blue crabs congregate along barrier island beaches.	9	10	11	12 Most Wood Duck and Wild Turkey nesting has ended.
13 Full Moon	14	15	16	17	18	19
	ALBC Top 25 Tournament Atchafalaya Basin.	Soft-shelled turtles finish laying eggs.			Shawhide begin swallow migration throughout the state.	
20	Last Quarter	22	23	24	25	26
27	Rose gentian bloom in prairies and pindlands. Fawning begins in Arcos 1 and 6.	New Moon	30	31	JUNE S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	AUGUST S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
The economic impact of the Louisiana shrimp industry accounts for more than \$2 billion each year, with approximately 22,000 people relying on the industry to provide for themselves and their families. The industry holds cultural and historical significance as well promoting the state's reputation throughout the country and around the world as a haven of flavor.						
Barataria Pass Photo by Brian Harcastle Biologist III Marine Fisheries Division						

Barataria Pass

Photo by

Brian Hardcastle

Biologist III



July 2003



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JULY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	SEPTEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	First Quarter 4 ● 5	Louisiana fishing record: James L. Tolber's 47 5-pound striped bass caught in Toledo Bend August, 1991, ranks first in the freshwater species division. 6	First Blue-winged Teal and Pintail begin appearing.	Louisiana fishing record: Vernon C. Johnson, Jr.'s 4.88 pound spotted bass caught at Texian River in August 1976, ranks first in the freshwater species division. 1	Buy hunting license now to avoid the rush. 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Common in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, Requiem sharks (*Carcharhinidae*) are the largest family of sharks in North America, containing 26 species. While some are harmless to people, the larger species are considered dangerous.

Requiem Sharks
 Photo by
 Richard Bejarano
 Biologist II
 Marine Fisheries Division



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AUGUST 2003

Pigmy rattlesnakes give birth.

 ALBC Top 8 Tournament Atchafalaya Basin | Blue-winged Teal overgulate on Catfolds Lake. | Pig frogs are calling from the marshes. | Get lanterns and gigs ready for flounders. | Pigmy rattlesnakes give birth. | Don't forget to get HIP permit if hunting doves or any other migratory bird. |



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

	1 Labor Day DMAP application deadline. Cajal Conservation Association S.T.A.R. Tournament ends at 5 p.m.	2 First Quarter	3 Full Moon	4	5 Quail nesting season ending	6 Bow hunters should practice for opening day.
7 Grandparents Day	8 First cool fronts inhibit redfish, sheepshead and black drum from marshes to deep waters.	9 Full Moon	10 Full Moon	11 	12 Make preparations for September rain season.	13
14 ALBC State Team Tournament, Red River	15 Louisiana fishing record: Donald M. Moran's 11.00-pound white trout caught in September, 1973, ranks first in the saltwater species division.	16	17	18 Last Quarter	Peak migration/docking of tree ducks in marshes and rice fields.	Wildlife drawing helps to migrate to the Gulf as water temperatures cool.
21	22 Time to plant winter wheat and clover food plots.	23 Autumn Equinox Box turtles foraging in hardwood forests.	24 Peak spawning of redfish.	25 New Moon	Rosh Hashanah Huge crowds back on south shore of Lake Pontchartrain.	National Hunting and Fishing Day
28	29 Peregrine Falcons return from northern breeding grounds.	30 Last gopher tortoise eggs hatch. Mussel season closes.			AUGUST S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	OCTOBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

LDWF is responsible for managing the state's American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) resource.

Landowners and licensed trappers and farmers may participate in harvests of wild alligators, alligator eggs and nuisance

alligators. Income derived from these programs encourages landowners to maintain their wetlands and enhance their properties for alligator habitat.

American Alligator
Photo by Jeff Bounly
Biologist III
Fur & Refuge Division



SEPTEMBER 2003

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SEPTEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	NOVEMBER S M T W T F S 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		Archery and commercial hunting preserve seasons open. Deadline for payment of DMAP fees. 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 First Quarter	2 Full Moon	3 Last Quarter	4 New Moon	Gulf sturgeon migrate out of rivers into the Gulf. Squirrel and rabbit seasons open. White-footed Geese begin to arrive in southwest rice fields. Yellow rails arrive this month in southwestern fields and marshes. Neotropical birds move through the state. Deer rut underway in Area 3. New Moon	Prescribed burns are beneficial to managing forest and wildlife resources. Burning helps set back plant succession and reduce competition for space and available sunlight and benefits resident birds and mammals. This photo was taken after a controlled burn at Sandy Hollow Wildlife Management Area in Tangipahoa Parish.
Yom Kippur	5	6	7	8	9 Fall Moon	10	11	12	Gift subscriptions to Louisiana Conservationist are very affordable.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	ALBC Tournament of Champions Atchafalaya Basin.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	Daylight Savings Time Ends.
26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	Prescribed Burn Sandy Hollow WMA Photo by Jeff Boudry Biologist III Fur & Refuge Division



OCTOBER 2003

LOUISIANA Conservationist



OCTOBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	DECEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Removals sent to commercial license holders.	Major migration period begins for most waterfowl.	Recruits sent to commercial license holders.	Waterfowl hunting seasons begin this month.	Seniors begin appearing along the coast.	All Saints' Day Memorial season closes.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	LDWF begins issuing commercial licenses for 2004. Quail season opens.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Common Goldeneyes return to coastal Louisiana. woody and herbaceous browse, acorns, mayhaws, persimmons and various agricultural crops.
New Moon 23/30	First Quarter 24	25	26	27	28	29	Louisiana fishing records: Pete V. Cooper, Jr.'s 30-pound redfish caught in November 1997 at E. J. Perry Southeast Pass. Louisiana's first in the world to have a state fishing lifeline.

Habitat is the main ingredient for the production of quality deer in Louisiana. The state's deer herds are a product of native habitat which provides the nutrition needed for body growth and antler development. This nutrition comes in many forms, including woody and herbaceous browse, acorns, mayhaws, persimmons and various agricultural crops.

Buck

Photo by
David Moreland
State Deer Study Leader
Wildlife Division



NOVEMBER 2003

LOUISIANA Conservationist





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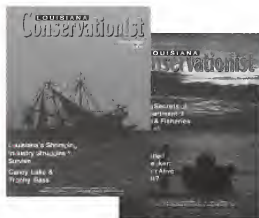
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